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Message Text

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10
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 AID-05

EUR-12 SAM-01 /066 W
---------- 122861
O P 300935Z JUN 75 ZFF-1
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE
INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3718

UNCLAS NAIROBI 5495

USIAC

SECSTATE FOR AF/E

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: BERBERA COVERAGE JUNKET

1. NAIROBI PAPERS MONDAY RAN PAGE ONE STORIES DATELINED MOGADISCIO BY THEIR CORRESPONDENTS WHO, ALONG WITH OTHERS, INVITED TO SEE BERBERA FACILITIES FOR THEMSELVES.

2. BY THEIR ACCOUNTS SOMALI OFFICIALS INSISTED THE FACILITIES THEY DID SEE AT BERBERA BELONGED TO SOMALI DEFENSE FORCE AND NOT TO SOVIET UNION. THEY WERE UNABLE EITHER TO CONFIRM OR DISCOUNT EXISTENCE OF SOVIET FACILITY.

3. ARTICLES CITED STALLS AND FRUSTRATIONS OVER ARRANGE-MENTS AND INABILITY TO VISIT WHAT DOD PHOTOGRAPHS LABELLED AS MISSILE STORAGE FACILITY. AT PORT THE SEVEN VISITING JOURNALISTS, INCLUDING TEAM FROM ABC AND ONE FROM PERU, ALLOWED TO ENTER ONLY AFTER LEAVING THEIR PHOT EQUIP-MENT AT GATE, BUT EVEN THEN STOPPED SHORT DISTANCE INSIDE.

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4. PLACES WHERE NEWSMEN WANTED MOST TO VISIT WERE RULED OFF-LIMITS BECAUSE THEY WERE DESCRIBED BY ESCORTS AS BEING INSIDE "SOMALI DEFENSE CAMP" AREAS INACCESSIBLE TO OUTSIDERS.

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5. FROM AIR NOTED LONG AIRSTRIPS WHICH DOD PHOTOS IDENTIFIED AS UNDER CONSTRUCTION SEEM COMPLETED NOW. SAW WHAT THEY DESCRIBED AS "TWO-STORY SILOS" IN PROCESS OF CONSTRUCTION BUT UNABLE APPROACH THEM. PREVENTED ALSO FROM ENTERING TWO-STORY BUILDING LABELLED BY DOD AS MISSILE STORAGE AREA BECAUSE "SOMALIS DID NOT HAVE THE KEYS."

6. ARTICLES DESCRIBED SCENE AS MAINLY OF OF FRUSTRATED, SHOUTING, GRUMBLING REPORTERS PRODDING SOMALI HOSTS FOR RIGHT TO SEE WHAT THEY HAD BEEN INVITED TO SEE, AND SOMALIS BLOCKING THEIR ACCESS TO MAIN POINTS OF INTEREST.

7. FOR MOGADISCIO: BRANNIGAN (ABC) AND QUINT (CBS) DELAYED MOGADISCIO BECAUSE SUNDAY AFTERNOON FLIGHT TO NAIROBI CANCELLED. THEIR OBSERVATIONS ON BERBERA VISIT BE USEFUL TO KNOW.
CUSHING

UNCLASSIFIED

7. FOR MOGADISCIO: BRANNIGAN (ABC) AND QUINT (CBS) DELAYED MOGADISCIO BECAUSE SUNDAY AFTERNOON FLIGHT TO NAIROBI CANCELLED. THEIR OBSERVATIONS ON BERBERA VISIT BE USEFUL TO KNOW.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT, MILITARY BASES, VISITS, PHOTOGRAPHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NAIROB05495
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750225-0807
From: NAIROBI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197506103/baaaatpr.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAR 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

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Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, KE, US, ABC
To: MOGADISCIO INFO USIA
STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006